

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

25X1

COUNTRY	Poland	REPORT	
SUBJECT	1. Appointments and Arrests of Government Officials 2. Anti-Semitism	DATE DISTR.	5 June 1953
DATE OF INFO.		NO. OF PAGES	2
PLACE ACQUIRED		REFERENCE NO.	RD
		REFERENCES	25X1

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1. Major Leon Zurawski, section head in the State Motor Vehicle Enterprise, Motozbyt, has been relieved of his post and arrested.¹ He has been replaced by Lieutenant Colonel Witalis Szerszen,² who was previously employed in the Central Information Office (Główny Zarząd Informacji) or Military Intelligence Office, which is located on Ul. Chalubinskiego in Warsaw.
2. Jakub Berman, who is in danger of falling into disfavor, visited Moscow in order to clarify his situation and confirm his position in the Party.
3. Lieutenant Colonel Kawecki has been appointed a Ministry of National Defense representative in the Soldiers' Friendship League (Liga Przyjaciół Zolnierza).³ This league is increasing in importance as a result of its having taken over the military and technical-military training of pre-conscription age groups.
4. Since about January 1953 an anti-Jewish campaign has been in evidence in Poland, showing itself in the summary dismissal of Jews working in government agencies.⁴ This has resulted in the increase in numbers of Jews desiring to emigrate to Palestine. Applicants for passports are required to submit a detailed life history; every fact must be supported by documentary evidence or a sworn affidavit of at least two Christian witnesses. All enclosures must be submitted in triplicate. It is easy to see that the submission of affidavits and copies of documents makes an application for a passport not only a prolonged but a very expensive business.⁵

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Comments:

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1. A Major (fnu) Zurawski was listed as Assistant Military Attache to Moscow in 1948.

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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Comments:

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2. A Lt. Col. (fnu) Szerszen was with the Rzeszow garrison in 1949.
3. This may be the same Colonel Janusz Kawecki who was listed as Deputy Chief of the Medical Department of the Ministry of National Defense in 1948.



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5.  in December 1952 the last group of Jews who emigrated from Poland received only a travel document, which specified that the holder was stateless and the document was valid for only a single journey to Israel.

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COUNTRY Poland

REPORT

SUBJECT Partisan Activities

DATE DISTR. 5 June 1953
25X1

NO. OF PAGES 1

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1. A partisan unit led by (fnu) Taraszkiewicz, alias Zelazny, was active in the district of Parczew (S52/M32) in 1951. The unit consisted of about six to eight persons. It attacked zealous regime supporters and raided banks and cooperatives. Zelazny had no permanent residence and recruited his supporters only for individual tasks. In 1951 Zelazny was fairly active. In 1952, however, as a result of the establishment of a KBW (Internal Security Corps) unit in the Parczew district, his activities lessened considerably. 25X1
2. It is rumored that a show trial was to take place involving three or four young Poles who in 1952 escaped from Poland to Germany, joined the American Army, and were sent to the front in Korea where they were subsequently taken prisoner, recognized as Poles, and returned to Poland. 25X1

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COUNTRY	Poland	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Result of the Price Increases	DATE DISTR.	5 June 1953
DATE OF INFO.		NO. OF PAGES	1 25X1
PLACE ACQUIRED		REFERENCE NO.	RD 25X1
		REFERENCES	
		This is UNEVALUATED Information	

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1. After the recent price increases in Poland the population was at first openly critical, regardless of consequences. Nevertheless, in spite of the widespread and general complaints, no arrests took place, although it was generally expected that this would be a good excuse for the security authorities to imprison those who were dissatisfied with the regime. The complaints ceased after a time, since the population has slowly become convinced that the changes were to its advantage.
2. The food supply, especially meat and dairy products, is at present very good. Textile and footwear shops are also surprisingly well stocked. The black market in food is disappearing slowly since the shop prices are lower and there is no difficulty in obtaining food in the state stores.
3. In the early days after the price change, when many articles which had not been seen in Poland for a long time appeared in shops, the population, thinking that this was a temporary phenomenon, made a run on the shops, which resulted in a considerable turnover. This resulted in the appearance on the market of a large amount of hoarded money, which in turn led to an inflationary panic, the population fearing that this portended a devaluation of the zloty. When, however, it was found that the stocks in the shops were replenished almost at once, the population calmed down and ceased to make unnecessary purchases. This led to a reduction in the amount of money in circulation.
4. The allaying of fears resulted in a considerable fall in the black market value of the dollar, which in about ten days fell from 110 to 65-70 zloty and is expected to fall still further. The value of gold coins has remained unchanged. It was not possible to establish the value of the pound sterling as the demand for it is small.
5. In spite of the improvement in the food situation the people still complain of low wages although these have been increased and the taxation reduced.

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